5:Masiliūnas G-4, 5 (no date)1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

[563] 871 873 Instead of the second foreign language, the language of instruction and general literature are taught. There are only 23 weekly lessons in French, 12 in drawing, 25 in physical culture and pre-military training, and 9 in manual training and housekeeping for girls.

Schools Public or Private

871 658 Nineteen thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine secondary school students were attending 66 gymnasia and 34 progymnasia in 1937; in 1919 there were 5 gymnasia and 33 progymnasia with 9,213 students. These schools may be either State (public) or private. The former are founded and maintained by the State; the latter, with the permission of the Minister of Education, by corporations, ecclesiastical orders, and private individuals. All the private schools are under the control of the Ministry of Education which grants subventions toward their maintenance, sends official delegates to inspect the work carried on in them, and appoints their teachers. The students in some of the private gymnasia enjoy all the privileges extended to students in the State schools. In others they do not, and in order to acquire those rights the students must at the end of their course of study, pass examinations in the State schools or in their own schools in the presence of a delegate of the Ministry of Education. The relative numerical status of the two types of schools is:

Type	Progymnasia	Gymnasia
State	22	33
Private:		
Lithuanian	2	10
Jewish	5	14
German	4	5
Latvian	1	----
Polish	----	3
Russian	----	1

562 873 Nine gymnasia and one progymnasium have been especially set aside for the education of girls, and eight for the education of boys. All

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873 the others are mixed but in the larger schools in which parallel classes exist, separate classes for boys and girls are established.

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[658] The extension of the network of secondary schools produced in the first years of Lithuania's independence a shortage of teachers, and educating a staff was undertaken by the State. Teachers were trained in foreign universities, and from 1922 onwards in the University of Vytautas the Great in Kaunas, as well. Most of the 1,432 teachers now employed are university graduates and possess the qualifications required by the Ministry of Education. They are classified as junior teachers, teachers, and senior teachers. The rank of junior teacher is granted to persons who have taken a university course in psychology, pedagogics, the history of pedagogics, pedology, and the methodology of their specialties, or have passed examinations in these subjects and have completed their studies in the subjects necessary for the teaching of their specialty. Junior teachers who have taught successfully not less than 2 years and have conducted two probational lessons in their specialty may be elevated by the Ministry of Education to the rank of teachers. Teachers who have taught with outstanding success for at least 5 years may be raised to senior teachers.

School Competitions

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555 A State physical culture badge to encourage physical fitness, scout troops and circles, camps for students, and travel during the vacation period are all connected with secondary education, but perhaps the most noteworthy activity to promote all-sided scholastic progress and interscholastic cooperation is the school competitions that were organized first in 1935 and take place at the end of the school year.

In these competitions the secondary schools strive for supremacy in the reading and recitation of Lithuanian, French, and German, drawing, singing, and physical culture. In

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VIII. THE ROLE OF LITHUANIAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Women play an important part in Lithuanian agriculture both economically and intellectually. A farm without a woman is considered as extraordinary; the first thing a young peasant does when he comes into property is to marry, and a widower soon marries again.

From time immemorial, the peasant woman has taken her full share of responsibility in rural work. Though not on such a big scale as at present, she always made butter and cheese, collected eggs and occasionally fattened a pig for the market and sold a few geese. The more skilled even contrived to sell a little honey, dried fruits, poppy-heads and onions, and used to take to the fair in the neighbouring town their homespun linen or cloth. The woman's modest earnings were independent of the revenue from the farm; they covered the housekeeping expenditure and enabled her to put a little aside and even to help her husband on occasion.

In a number of districts, the ancient custom still prevails whereby a girl could reject a suitor who did not promise to confer on her, as mistress of his house, the right to manage the whole financial side of the farm.

Legally, women are treated in Lithuania to-day on a footing of equality with men. They have the right to own and administer land or other immovable property whether married or not. After the parents' death, brothers and sisters inherit the land in equal shares; the widow or widower inherits 25% of the estate. No statistics are available of the number of women landowners, but they are known to be less numerous than the men. The principal reason for this is the desire to avoid breaking up estates. One very widespread custom in many districts is for the peasant to leave his land to his eldest son, requiring him at the same time to pay over to his sisters and younger brothers in cash or in stock the shares devolving on them. When a girl marries, the share accruing to her is often registered in her husband's name. Before the war, under the law of the Russian Empire, girls in the Province of Kaunas inherited only one-fourteenth of the immovable property. These various factors have all tended to reduce the area owned by women. It is among the owners of large estates that women constitute the highest percentage, but these estates are few in number.

When an agricultural census was taken in 1930, women were found to constitute 50.69% and men 49.31% of the total adult

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worthy of note. The explanation is that the elder daughters have to help their mothers in the house. Moreover, there is more demand for boys on the smaller farms; an adult paid hand would cost too much. 464

The distribution of women's work according to the size of the farm is as follows: on the smaller farms — under 15 hectares — there are more adult women than men working who are members of the family; on farms ranging from 15 to 30 hectares paid labour is generally found consisting of adult women and boys, the number of women members of the family working being about the same as that of the men. The number of children working as members of the family is in inverse ratio to the size of the farm, the figures for boys declining rather more sharply than those for girls. In farms of 50 hectares, the percentage of women in receipt of wages becomes equal to the percentage of women belonging to the family, whereas in larger farms the former percentage is the greater. In farms of over 50 hectares, the proportion of women among the wage-earners declines in inverse ratio to the size of the farm. 462 464

Wage-earning female agricultural workers are recruited from among the landless proletariat, which is not very numerous in the rural districts, and more particularly from among families of small landowners and settlers. Many of them are engaged only in seasonal day-labour and live at home.

A woman's work on the farm is very varied. In addition to her usual domestic duties, she has to feed the fowls, milk and often feed the cows and work in the kitchen garden — all tasks for which men as a rule show little inclination. She has, besides, to toss the hay, load the carts, bind the sheaves, pick the flax, etc. Sugar-beet cultivation and other hoed crops require much female labour. With the modernisation of agriculture, dairying, pig-breeding and poultry are tending to constitute more important branches of agriculture, and practically the whole of the export trade in eggs, butter and bacon represents the outcome of women's work. 462

The life of the peasant woman is becoming increasingly difficult, for even though her labour raises the standard of well-being of her own family and of the country as a whole, she is gradually losing part of her economic independence. The income she derived before the war from her eggs, cheese and butter is passing out of her keeping and her husband now receives, through the intermediary of the co-operative dairies, pig-marketing boards and centres for the purchase of flax and eggs, ten times the sum she once earned, this income forming the mainstay of the whole farm budget. A thrifty hard-working housewife who has to be constantly begging her husband for money for minor household expenses is criticied for extravagance. 562

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286 462 With so much other work to do, the farmer's wife has little time nowadays for spinning and weaving. This is indeed how her artistic sense, cultivated for centuries, finds expression. There is a special material for every purpose and a special design for every material — for bed-linen and personal linen, pure linen weave; for towels and table linen, linen and cotton mixed, with hundreds of combinations of grey and white checks; for carpets and blankets, linen and woollen materials in brighter colours and bolder designs; for men's suits, woollen materials. The women's traditional costumes are still found in many districts, and attempts have recently been made to extend the use of national costumes in general. Every corner of Lithuania has its own traditions, designs and combinations of colours. The designs of the costumes bear witness to an original taste in art, while the choice of colours is remarkably ● 572 finely conceived. Again, a great variety of exquisite detailed designs is found in the Easter eggs. Only the son of a Lithuanian woman who had grown up in an atmosphere of mystic legends could have created the Lithuanian "Smūtkelis", the saints in the little chapels standing by the roadside, the amazing Samogitian crosses.

To recall the situation of the country before the war is to realise the importance of the humble peasant woman's rôle. During foreign domination when there were practically no books written in the national language and no Lithuanian schools, the peasant woman was the guardian of the Lithuanian language, customs and art and the inspirer of the national conscience when her sons returned home for the holidays after studying at schools which offered them only the foreign culture of the country's oppressors. The Lithuanian woman's personal beliefs and convictions revealed her integrity and sense of justice. A gentle poetry and original philosophy of life imbued the songs and tales and proverbs which she transmitted to her children. The lore she handed down to her daughters, her simple replies to their questions, reflected an exquisite beauty of character and the finest intelligence. Her bearing was marked by nobility, by a consciousness of her dignity, far above what might be regarded as corresponding to her station in life; in her relations with different classes of society, she exhibited remarkable tact and a keen sense of diplomacy.

The Lithuanian peasant woman has preserved this natural dignity notwithstanding the profound transformation of the whole life of the country. The school with its army of teachers — about 60% are women — the Lithuanian book, the national Press adapted to the requirements of the various social classes, officials and private economic and cultural activities, the agrarian reform, the breaking-up of communal lands into individual

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farms, improved means of communication, the wireless — all these factors have completely revolutionised the physiognomy of the country and the mentality of its inhabitants. 562

The rôle of the intellectual woman in agriculture is no less important. As a member of the Chamber of Agriculture or of the many associations which aim at promoting the technical advancement of agriculture, as the owner and manager of well-run farms, she takes an active part in the solution of various problems relating to agriculture. Like men, she is found in the service of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Chamber of Agriculture. But it is in the sphere of agricultural instruction that she plays the most important part. Girls have opportunities of studying agronomic science at the Agricultural Academy at Dotnuva, and agricultural domestic economy is taught in the domestic science section of that institution. On completing their studies, they spread the knowledge they have acquired by enrolling as teachers in domestic economy and other agricultural schools; they visit the peasant women in their own homes, in their capacity as agricultural domestic advisers under the Chamber of Agriculture; they give them advice and practical instruction; they organise lectures and courses on questions of interest to farming women, competitions, excursions and local exhibitions; they run young peasants' clubs and play an important part in organisations for the education of rural youth; they contribute to the periodicals for farmers' wives and daughters — "Šcimininkė" (with about 80,000 subscribers), "Jaunasis Ūkininkas" (also with about 80,000 subscribers) and "Moteris" (15,000 subscribers). They prepare lectures, etc., for the half-hour wireless talk for countrywomen. 462

The recently founded Society of Lithuanian Peasant Women looks after the interests of peasant women. Its object is to group all Lithuanian peasant women, including those working on farms, with a view to joint economic action designed to create a new type not concerned solely with their own individual calling but prepared to interest themselves also in the well-being of the nation as a whole. The Society of Lithuanian Peasant Women has an hour's talk on the radio every Sunday, devoted exclusively to the affairs of women in rural areas. 562 575

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

693 Art. 87. The Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR is appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 88. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 89. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter VIII. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

641 461 Art. 90. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is ensured by the socialist organisation of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 91. The citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

[466] The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for factory and office workers, the reduction of the working day to seven or six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in shops where conditions of work are particularly arduous, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest homes and clubs for the accommodation of the working people.

[657] Art. 92. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

641 This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical service for working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

871 Art. 93. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to education.

This right is ensured by universal and compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including the seventh grade; by a system of state stipends for students of higher educational establishments who excel in their studies; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language, and by the organization in the factories, state farms and machine and tractor stations of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

[512] Art. 94. Women in the Lithuanian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

[Lithuanian constitution as of April 7, 1948]

[44] [665] [401] Art. 103. It is the duty of every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR to safeguard and fortify public, socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public, socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 104. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the Armed Forces of the USSR is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Lithuanian SSR.

[667] Art. 105. To defend the country is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR. Treason to the motherland - violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes.

Chapter IX. The Electoral System

666 Art. 106. Members of all Soviets of Working People's Deputies - of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and of the district, city, volost, small town and apilinki Soviets of Working People's Deputies - are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Art. 107. Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the Lithuanian SSR who have reached the age of eighteen, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies and to be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

[644] Every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR who has reached the age of twenty-one is eligible for election to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, irrespective of race, nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities.

Art. 108. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

● [542] Art. 109. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Art. 110. Citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 111. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, from apilinki, volost and city Soviets of Working People's Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are elected by the citizens by a direct vote.

Art. 112. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

Art. 113. Candidates are nominated by election districts.